DIGITAL HOME MOVIE LIBRARY

ABSTRACT

The system and method of the present invention provides viewers access to a library of movies, or any other audio/video content available for viewing at anytime. Specifically, the method involves transmitting movies wirelessly to a set-top box in one's home and allowing movies to accumulate. A hard disk drive in the set-top box is used to store movies. In an exemplary embodiment, movies are wirelessly transmitted to the set-top box using a datacasting technology which allows data to be encoded onto standard television signals and transmitted using existing television transmitters and broadcast towers. Movies are transferred to the set-top box using a broadcast file transfer protocol and stored on the hard drive. Movies are "packetized" and these packets are continuously transmitted to the set-top box where they are incrementally reassembled. The user is not aware of what data is being sent to their set-top box. The movies are pushed down by the provider to reside passively in the box for a finite time period. Transmission of the data is controlled by the content or service provider. To ensure that movies are received in their entirety, the same movie may be broadcast to the set-top box several times. Any packets of data that were not received in the first attempt of transmission will be received with subsequent broadcasts. The settop box is also connected to a phone line for billing purposes.